



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Oregon Rancher Trades Boots with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Senior Leader**

Stacy Davies, ranch manager of Roaring Springs Ranch in Frenchglen, Oregon, spent the week gathering valuable agency experience in D.C. working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Davies is participating in the "Walk-A-Mile-in-My-Boots" reciprocal exchange with Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Director of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The two have spent three days experience the profession of the other to build understanding, education and learn about the influences of the others profession.

During the week of July 21<sup>st</sup>, Arroyo worked alongside manager Stacy Davies and his crew learning about ranching in the west and how Davies manages this one-million-acre ranch to enhance wildlife habitat while maintaining a profitable cattle operation. In completing the reciprocal exchange, Davies meet with legislators on a variety of conservation issues, educated staff at the Service's national headquarters about ranching and wildlife, and observed other activities related to the daily operations of the nation's principal fish and wildlife conservation agency.

These men are participants in the work exchange program "Walk A Mile in My Boots." This highly-successful program was established in 2003 to foster greater mutual understanding and communication between farmers and ranchers, and employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through a partnership between the Service and the National Cattlemen's Foundation

Arroyo was previously the assistant regional director of endangered species in the Service's southwest Region. He has nearly 20 years of experience from field biology work to policy and budget development at the national level of the Service. Arroyo hails from New York City and was raised in his natal country of Puerto Rico.

"This has provided me with an opportunity to see how science is driving management decisions on the ranch as it does with the work in our agency. 'Walk A Mile' should be incorporated in our training of new employees. It is an extraordinary experience that both ranchers and federal employee should partake," said Arroyo.

Davies was hired in 1999 at the age of 30 to manage Roaring Springs Ranch for his ability to deal creatively and intelligently with complex environmental issues. He interprets the ranch for visitors unfamiliar with this type of industry operation. He restores valuable habitat, evaluates administrative rules, learns from local ranchers and has positive dialogue with environmentalists and natural resource agencies. Roaring Springs Ranch is a 2007 recipient of the National Cattlemen's Foundation's prestigious Environmental Stewardship Award.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside Mr. Arroyo and understand the complexities of the Fish and Wildlife Service on a national level. Coming here is an education, realizing the importance of the cattle industry as one of our nation's key food services while implementing environmental practices is pivotal today," said Davies.

When meeting with USFWS Director Dale Hall during his Washington Office visit, Davies said, "We're in the business of turning grass into a finished product... beef. We fully believe that a healthy environment and economy work hand in hand together and that they are absolutely co-dependant. You have to manage both and we've seen a rewarding shift in the working relationship between ranchers and the fish and wildlife employees," said Davies. Smiling, Davies also said "My Washington, DC exchange has been productive and enjoyable. I've seen my first professional sporting event (a Washington National's baseball game) and my first professional theatre production at the Kennedy Center, but I'm looking forward to getting back to Oregon."

Roaring Springs Ranch shares a property line and a history of conservation agreements with Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Creating partnerships and cooperative agreements is a major focus of the ranch's operation in stopping the spread of invasive species, improving wildlife habitat, educating future agriculturalists and implementing proper management techniques to balance environmental protection and economic viability. Roaring Springs is a one-million acre 6,000 head cow/calf-stocker operation. The ranch harvests more than 200 ton of alfalfa hay each year.

The Walk-A-Mile in My Boots program was developed as a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Cattlemen's Foundation. In recent years the partnership has expanded to include the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Association of Conservation Districts. More than 50 exchanges have taken place between ranchers and the various federal agency employees. Each person has walked away with a greater respect and understanding of the challenges each party faces in the decisions they make. More information about this program can be found at: [www.fws.gov/walkamile/](http://www.fws.gov/walkamile/)

The National Cattlemen's Foundation advances the future of the beef industry with passion and urgency for the benefit of consumers and cattlemen. For more information about the programs, scholarships and opportunities of the National Cattlemen's Foundation, visit [www.NationalCattlemensFoundation.org](http://www.NationalCattlemensFoundation.org)

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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